

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

---

September

2021

---

9-14-2021

## Daily Eastern News: September 14, 2021

Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den\\_2021\\_sep](https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2021_sep)

---

### Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: September 14, 2021" (2021). *September*. 9.  
[https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den\\_2021\\_sep/9](https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2021_sep/9)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the 2021 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in September by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact [tabruns@eiu.edu](mailto:tabruns@eiu.edu).



# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

' T E L L   T H E   T R U T H   A N D   D O N ' T   B E   A F R A I D '

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

EST. 1915

WWW.DAILYEASTERNNEWS.COM

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

VOL. 106 | NO. 16

## Smocks return to campus

Controversial campus preachers return for first visit of the academic year



Sister Cindy preaches and tells stories about her life to students listening in library quad in front of the Mellin steps.

**Morgan Bledsoe**  
Contributing Writer | @DEN\_news

Brother Jed Smock and Sister Cindy Smock, both members of the Campus Ministry USA, sat in the campus designated free speech zone Monday at the center of some caution tape on the Library Quad.

With Sister Cindy's recent TikTok fame more and more students gather to antagonize the "famous" evangelical, but many of the students at Eastern were there for the opposite reason.

Sharifa Etoe, junior TV and video pro-

duction major and Vice President of Eastern's Young Democratic Socialists of America, said that their organization wants to turn the attention from the Smocks and use their publicity for something proactive in the community.

Part of Sister Cindy's rhetoric is "good old-fashioned slut-shaming."

Etoe and YDSA want to pledge that whenever Brother Jed and Sister Cindy are on campus that YDSA will either fundraise for their organization or give out free STD testing to students on campus.

Etoe hopes to de-gender STD testing and

make it free for the students.

"If you want to be a whore, be a whore, but be safe," said Etoe.

YDSA is a sex-positive organization and is seeking social change that extends democracy into all aspects of life.

Maddin Herberger, a senior sociology major, said he came out to the quad for entertainment and that he had nothing else to do.

"I don't believe anything that they're saying. I'm just here for the homophobia and transphobia," said Herberger, who was wearing a transgender pride flag as a cape.

**SMOCKS**, page 2

## Faculty Senate to meet Tuesday afternoon

**Luke Taylor**  
News Editor | @DEN\_news

Faculty Senate will discuss their concerns with the number of faculty in their meeting Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the Witters conference room in Booth Library.

Another concern they will discuss is campus safety while having people in person during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Senate is expected to choose a theme for the next year which will give guidance on goals and priorities as the year progresses.

The proposed options for the 2021-22 theme include "Rebuilding a Faculty Culture" and "Moving for the Survival Era to the Investment Era."

The senate will also have discussions about what guest speakers to have at meetings throughout the year.

There are still a few issues remaining from the 2020-21 school year.

The first is deciding whether the Faculty Senate needs a committee on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

If the Senate decides they do need that committee, they also have to make a decision on whether they should have their own committee or if they should have a joint committee with the staff and student senates.

The senate will also receive an update on the decision-making process about possibly renaming Douglas Hall.

This potential name change has been debated over the last several years because the hall was named after Stephen Douglas, who is historically associated with his support for slavery.

Last year, Eastern's naming committee held forums with several different groups, including faculty members, on their feelings about the hall's name.

Seven faculty members spoke in the forum, and a majority were in favor of a name change.

Bonnie Laughlin-Shultz, associate professor of history, said he was in support of renaming the hall and that renaming would not diminish the historical element of the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

"I think that the debates are commemorated here. They're commemorated at the fairgrounds, we have those statues of Lincoln and Douglas debating that appear in the other debate cities as well with a museum," Laughlin-Shultz said. "So I don't think that they also need to be commemorated on campus."

Camden Burd, a professor of history, said "commemoration as an act is done in the present, not in the past."

The faculty senate meeting will also include a report from the provost and reports from committees.

Luke Taylor can be reached at 581-2812 or at [egtaylor@eiu.edu](mailto:egtaylor@eiu.edu).

## Meeting Eastern: Chair of geology and geography

Diane Burns talks geosciences and her students' success

**Staff Report | @DEN\_news**

*Editor's Note: This is part of a series introducing various members of the campus community to Eastern for a better understanding of those who maintain the operations of the university.*

**Where did you receive your degrees from?**

B.S. in English/Fine Arts from Loyola College, MD

B.S. in Geology from CA University, Sacramento, CA

M.S. in Geology from University of Wyoming

Ph.D. in Geology from University of Wyoming

**If we saw your music playlist, what would the top five songs be?**

This is a tough one! How about (in no particular order):

She Sells Sanctuary by The Cult

Panic Switch by Silversun Pickups

Kashmir by Led Zeppelin

The River by Bruce Springsteen

Green and Red of Mayo by the Saw Doctors



**Diane Burns**

**Where is your favorite place on campus?**

Under the trees by the campus pond

**What is a place in Charleston you think everyone should know about?**

Lake Charleston. Lots of recent renovations to make a wonderful place to hike, bike or picnic.

Who is someone you admire in your field and why?

Marie Tharp. She mapped the bottom of the ocean and opened scientific eyes to seafloor spreading, which led to a seminal theory in Geology - plate tectonics. She, however, was a woman and was not credited with the discovery/research - her mentor, a male, received all of the acclaim. It wasn't until much later that she was recognized as the true scientist behind the work.

**Why did you go into the field you're in?**

I got into technical climbing many years ago. When you are hanging off the side of a cliff, up close and personal with the matter that is preventing you from falling to your death, you can get a little curious about it. I was also at a stage in my life where I was looking to redefine my career, so it dovetailed nicely with going back to school and getting into Geology as well as teaching.

**DIANE BURNS**, page 2

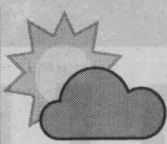


## Local weather

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY



Scattered  
Thunderstorms  
High: 88°  
Low: 62°

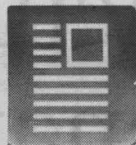


Partly Cloudy  
High: 80°  
Low: 58°

## THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

The Daily Eastern News  
1802 Buzzard Hall  
Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-581-2812  
217-581-2923 (fax)



## News Staff

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Corryn Brock  
DENeic@gmail.com

**Managing Editor**  
Madelyn Kidd  
dennewsdesk@gmail.com

**News Editor**  
Luke Taylor  
dennewsdesk@gmail.com

**Associate News Editor**  
Kyara Morales-Rodriguez  
dennewsdesk@gmail.com

**Photo Editor**  
Ashanti Thomas  
DENphotodesk@gmail.com

**Assistant Photo Editor**  
Rob Le Cates  
DENphotodesk@gmail.com

## Advertising Staff

**Faculty Advisers**  
**Editorial Adviser**  
Joe Gisondi

**Photo Adviser**  
Greg Cooper

**Website Adviser**  
Greg Cooper

**Publisher**  
Joe Gisondi

**Business Manager**  
Betsy Jewell

**Press Supervisor**  
Tom Roberts

## Night Staff for this issue

Madelyn Kidd  
Adam Tumino

**Night Chief**  
Madelyn Kidd

**Sports Designer**  
Adam Tumino

## Get social with The Daily Eastern News

The Daily Eastern News

dailyeasternnews

@DEN\_News

Visit our website: [dailyeasternnews.com](http://dailyeasternnews.com)

## About

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and online during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.

## Advertising

To place an advertisement or classified ad in The Daily Eastern News, call the ads office at 581-2812 or fax 581-2923. Visit our online advertisements at [dailyeasternnews.com/classifieds](http://dailyeasternnews.com/classifieds).

## Comments / Tips

Contact any of the above staff members if you believe your information is relevant.

## Corrections

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds or is made aware of by its readers will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief Corryn Brock at 581-2812.

## Employment

If you would like to work for The Daily Eastern News as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.



Printed by Eastern Illinois University  
on soy ink and recycled paper.

Attention postmaster: Send  
address changes to:  
The Daily Eastern News  
1802 Buzzard Hall  
Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL 61920

## Students share their self-care tips

By Ethan Schobernd  
Campus Reporter | @DEN\_news

Eastern students shared their own forms of self-care for "Self-Care Awareness Month."

College is full of homework assignments, exams and multiple extracurricular activities. Since students have so many tasks throughout the week, students often need to utilize self-care to get through the semester.

Paige Thing, a sophomore, shared her form of self-care and why others should try practicing it as well.

"I practice self-care by taking time for myself when I feel really overwhelmed with schoolwork," Thing said. "I prioritize my mental health because it is so important to take care of your mind when it is working so hard. I recommend students remember to relax and give themselves breaks because they can perform in school to the best of their ability and lower their stress."

Elizabeth Meyer, a sophomore communications disorders and sciences major, has a different way of practicing self-care.

"If I'm a little stressed over homework I like to go out and get coffee or take a little break," Meyer said. "Sometimes I will go and take a hot shower just to cool off. If I'm really feeling it, I will go to the gym and work out and get out those emotions that I'm feeling. I also do face masks, and sometimes I'll just go hang out with friends or watch an episode of 'Gilmore Girls' to de-stress."

Meyer said that these breaks are valuable for emotional release.

"I think a lot of it is stress relief. It's taking a break from work or whatever is stressing you out and it helps to get out emotions or calm

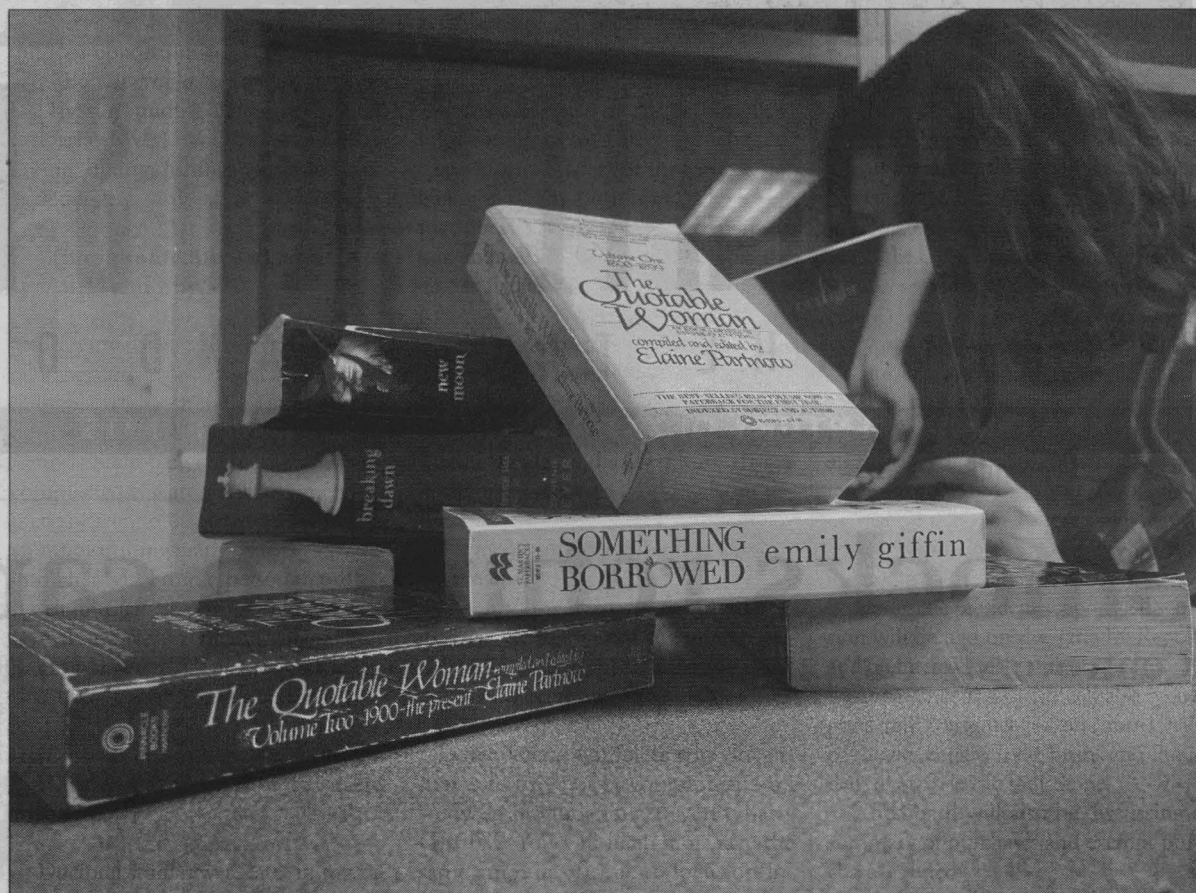


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CORRYN BROCK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

As the semester begins to pick up speed, many students are taking time for self-care. Some said their favorite form of self-care is reading.

myself down a little bit over what is going on in the world," Meyer said.

Bianca Beltrán, a sophomore music education major, said that they prefer reading for their self-care breaks.

"I usually make sure my planner is up to date and plan my week," Beltrán said. "For me it's helpful to make sure I'm physically feeling relaxed and taken care of as well as emotionally relaxed when I get lost in a good book."

Beltrán said that they recom-

mend that form of escapism to other students as well.

"I would recommend this to other students because it helps you wind down after you know your school stuff is planned and taken care of," Beltrán said. "Reading lets people get lost in another world for a small period of time to take their mind off their schoolwork."

Kaitlyn Ostick, a sophomore majoring in public health, said that staying on top of her work is a form of self-care since it helps her relax.

"I try to get enough sleep every night and make sure I get my homework done in plenty of time," Ostick said. "I like to listen to music. When I take time to do things and plan it out, it makes everything much less stressful. Whenever there's enough time to do everything and you that you can do everything, then you should take time for yourself."

Ethan Schobernd can be reached at 581-2812 or at [ejschobernd@eiu.edu](mailto:ejschobernd@eiu.edu).

» SMOCKS  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Many students wanted to come and make fun of the Smocks and what they were doing on campus. Sister Cindy, who was wearing one of the "Ho No Mo" shirts that she sells as merchandise, had a line of students waiting to get a picture with her. One student even stopped her on the way back from the bathroom to get a selfie.

"She's ridiculous and it's funny to make fun of it," said Maya Walter, freshman art history major. "I don't take her seriously."

Reporters from Vice, a digital media and broadcasting company, were also there working on a series about internet personalities but declined to comment.

University President David Glassman, who observed the gathering for a while, said he was pleased that students were ignoring and walking past the Smocks' group.

"Everybody is behaving very civilly and respectfully and that's what I like to see in a free speech zone," said Glass-



BY ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Brother Jed takes his turn to preach after his wife, Sister Cindy. He explains stories about his life and answers questions from students.

man.

Dr. Anne Flaherty, Vice President for Student Affairs said the free speech zone signs were put together by Dr. Heather Webb, Director of Student Accountability and Support. The signs were placed in the Library Quad Monday

before the Smocks gathered.

"We ensure that everybody knows even if you don't agree with what a guest has to say, I mean it is a free speech zone and they have a right to speak as long as they stay within our guidelines of our free speech zone," Fla-

herly said.

"People are allowed to speak on our campus, we are allowed to listen, participate or walk away," said Glassman.

Morgan Bledsoe can be reached at 581-2812 or at [mmbledsoe@eiu.edu](mailto:mmbledsoe@eiu.edu).

» DIANE BURNS  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**What positions have you held during your career in higher education?**

Visiting Instructor, Annually Contracted Faculty, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Department Chairperson

**What are the most rewarding aspects of your current position?**

Having students succeed beyond their graduation from EIU.

**What are the most challenging aspects of your position?**

Getting students to consider Geology/Geography as career options. High schools have been cutting Geosciences out of their curriculum and, all too often, students who are good at science are steered to other STEM fields because the counselors know little

about the \*abundant\* opportunities that exist.

**What advice would you give to students in your department for their college careers?**

What you do now is the foundation on which you will continue to build for the rest of your life. Make it as solid as you can so it is durable and strong; make it as diverse/broad as you can so you have room to grow.

**What is your number one goal for your students?**

To set them up for success now and for the future. I want them to make the best choices now so that they have zero regrets ten or more years down the road. I want them to look back at their time at EIU and have them say, "that was the best choice I ever made."

The News Staff can be reached at 581-2812 or at [dennewsdesk@gmail.com](mailto:dennewsdesk@gmail.com).



## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Slut shame elsewhere

Brother Jed and Sister Cindy Smock made their annual trip to Eastern and shockingly enough received a poor reaction from students.

But honestly, what did they expected? They are a punchline at campuses across the country.

Sure, they get a good turn out of students but it is obvious that the majority of people who attend their rantings are there to laugh at them, mock their utterly ridiculous preaching and blow off some steam while yelling at them. No amount of TikTok fame is going to change that.

Yet, every year or more we see them step back on Eastern's campus, ready to call students sluts and whores and tell them they are going to Hell. It has been over forty years of the same act and the same reaction with few people actually buying into the hateful message the Smocks spread.

As most of the members of The Daily Eastern News Editorial Board have seen the spectacle that is the campus preaching of Jed and Cindy, we have some recommendations:

1. Don't scream at people to repent. No one likes being yelled at.

2. Stop using ridiculous behavior to grab attention. Seeing a 70-something fall to the ground is just concerning, if you're not careful someone is going to call an ambulance.

3. Get a better amplifier. No one can hear you when your speaker keeps cutting out.

In all seriousness though, the shtick is old and worn out. Feel free to enjoy retirement, Jed and Cindy, a nation of college students will thank you for it.

Quote of the Day:

**"I am here to do some good old fashioned slut shaming."**

Sister Cindy Smock

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of The Daily Eastern News.

## Letters to the Editor

Those interested can inquire at opinions.DEN@gmail.com for all opinion questions, submissions and letters to the editor. Please allow a week for us to publish letters to the editor. The Editor reserves the right to not publish letters. Letters that are 250 words or less will be prioritized, but longer ones will be considered by the editorial board. Please include your name and phone number to verify letters. For more information please call 217-581-2812.

## We're Hiring!

We have openings for those who enjoy:

- Photography
- Editing
- Design
- Opinions



Call 581-2812 for more information.

## Editorial Board

Corryn Brock

Helena Edwards

Madelyn Kidd

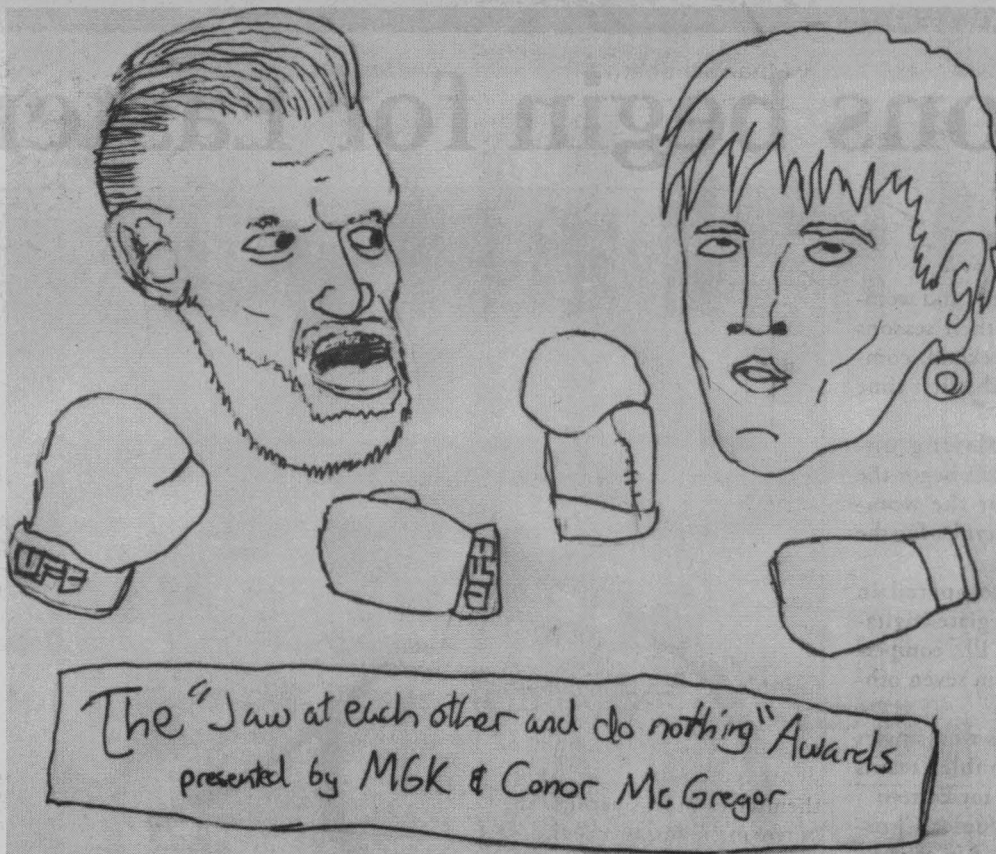
Luke Taylor

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez

Ryan Meyer

Adam Tumino

Ashanti Thomas



BY NICK PAUL

## Normalized students prioritizing mental health

In the last decade, chronic absenteeism, missing 10 percent or more of the school days in an academic year, has put approximately 6.5 million students from the ages six to 24 at risk of failure.

Some students are struggling with at least one mental illness. Students have always been expected to be at school every day unless they had a doctor's note, or a note from a parent, and even then, it still was not certain that your absence would be excused.

According to a bill signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker in August, students from ages six to 17 will be able to take up to five excused mental health days per school year. Students will also get the opportunity to make up any school work that is missed.

This bill is a huge step in getting people to understand how mental health is truly affecting students, but this bill has many people wondering what is being done to support college students suffering from the very same issues.

Some students drop out of college due to mental health issues, students feel that their mental health impacted their performance in school, and some college students have depression.



Kari Craddock

Mental health issues are common among students of all ages and are heavily affecting attendance, grade point averages, and test scores. If mental health issues are prominent in elementary to high school-age students, wouldn't it still be an issue for young adults in university?

The transition into college for students is already hard enough, and it's important to think about how these students will transition into college after being able to take a mental health day when needed.

College students are not able to take mental health days, even with the over-

whelming amounts of homework and busy schedules.

If you miss class, it is very unlikely to return to a teacher being understanding and allowing extra time for work unless you have a documented disability in the office of accommodations.

Many students aren't offered these accommodations because they have no documented mental illness on file.

I think that colleges, if not the state, should look into what can be done for all college students.

This would be including students that don't have a disability, aren't diagnosed with a mental disorder, and students that don't have the means to be properly diagnosed by a mental health specialist.

Making mental health a priority and something that is normalized in all schools could greatly improve graduation rates and the grade point averages of students in schools across America.

Kari Craddock is a freshman Journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or klcraddock@eiu.edu.

## Why you should listen to Bastille's music

You've most likely heard the song "Pompeii" on the radio or anywhere really. The first place I heard it was in the trailer for the "Mr. Peabody and Sherman" movie that came out in 2014. I had already heard the song, but I decided to listen to more of the band's music. The second song I listened to was "Things We Lost In The Fire." I was immediately hooked.

After being a fan for seven years, I was excited to hear that Sept. 9 of this year marked the fifth anniversary of the band's second album, "Wild World." That one album got me through middle school, which means it got me through a lot.

The album came out just before the 2016 presidential election, which is ironic since Bastille is from London, and it tells a story about how corrupt both politicians and big news outlets are.

It goes through themes of hopelessness, anger, loss and fear. The band shifts their sound every album, and this album is rock-heavy with a diverse set of sounds. It's a totally different sound from their debut album, "Bad Blood," which feels very hollow in comparison to "Wild World."

I remember seeing them in concert on



Ian Stobaugh

Nov. 29, 2018. I wish I had waited a bit, though, since their next album "Doom Days" came out a year later in 2019. I wish I had seen that tour since it's my favorite album. The entire album walks through a night at an "apocalyptic house party," meant to signify escapism from the world that's currently crashing down around us.

This album shows themes of love, euphoria, dread and loneliness. It's a very interpretable album since the lyrics are pretty literal and detail the protagonist's thoughts or sensations rather than what's going on around him.

Comparing the album to "Wild World,"

this album is a lot more about giving up than fighting the situation of the world. The band's frontman, Dan Smith, explained that people go to concerts to escape the world around them, so he felt bad pushing political and social issues into their faces during the "Wild World Tour." This album is more of an "apology" for the album.

While their fourth album hasn't been released nor announced yet, the new singles are definitely forming the theme for the new album. They're very "Black Mirror"-esque, talking about how we allow technology to take over our lives because of a need to escape; if you couldn't tell, escapism is a big theme within all of their music. The new album has a lot more synths and is definitely more of a futuristic sound.

If you're looking to listen, I recommend not starting with their first album. Their sound has drastically changed since then, and while it's a great album, they've definitely grown from where they've started, both as musicians and people.

Ian Stobaugh is a freshman German major. He can be contacted at 581-1812 or amstobaugh@eiu.edu.



# Seasons begin for Eastern tennis teams

By Adam Tumino  
Sports Editor | @adam\_tumino

Both the Eastern men's and women's tennis teams got their seasons underway over the weekend, competing in the fall for the first time since 2019.

Both teams are playing under new head coaches to begin the season, Ross Sons for the women's team and Paul Jarzynka for the men's team.

The men's team competed in the River Forest Collegiate Invitational in River Forest, Ill., competing against players from seven other programs.

Two Panther players won singles matches, and two doubles teams won a least one match for Eastern.

In singles, redshirt junior Christos Kyrillou participated in the No. 1 draw. He won a match against Northern Illinois' Kris Ortega in the seventh-place match. He won the first set 6-3 and was up 1-0 in the next when Ortega retired from the match.

Redshirt sophomore Pau Riera also won his seventh-place match, beating Nic Loudermilk of Xavier.

Riera was also part of the most successful doubles team for Eastern, along with freshman Tyler Carlin. Playing at No. 2 doubles, Riera and Carlin lost their first match to Xavier before beating UIC 6-4 and then winning 6-1 against Youngstown State in the fifth-place match.

The No. 3 doubles pairing for Eastern also reached the fifth-place match, but lost to Saint Louis.

The team of redshirt sophomore Max Pilipovic-Kljajic and redshirt junior Ruslan Pultz lost their opening match to Northern Illinois, beat Youngstown State and then lost 6-3 against Saint Louis.

The men's team will be back in action on Oct. 1 and 2 when they host the EIU Panther Hidden Dual



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern's Elizaveta Bukraba-Ulanova swings to return a shot in a match at the Darling Courts in her freshman season in 2019. Ulanova and the women's tennis team got their fall season underway over the weekend.

at the Darling Courts.

The women's team also remained in-state to open the season, competing in the SIUE Cougar Fall Invite in Edwardsville.

Playing against SIUE, Bradley and Western Illinois, the Panthers went 1-2, losing to the first two teams before beating the Leathernecks.

Returning for the Panthers was senior Rachel Papavasiliopoulos, one of the top players in school history.

Coming off a season in which she was named first team All-OVC, Papavasiliopoulos won her match at No. 1 singles against Bradley 3-6, 6-4, 10-3.

Papavasiliopoulos was 11-2 in No. 1 singles play last season.

She was also part of the No. 1 doubles pairing that won a match against SIUE. Sophomore Christine Gouws was paired with Papavasiliopoulos, and the team won 7-5.

A loss at No. 2 doubles against the Cougars meant Eastern failed to get the doubles point in the match. The pairing of Addison Brown and Elizaveta Bukraba-Ulanova, who

was named second team All-OVC last season, fell 7-6.

The women's team will play in just one more tournament for the fall season. They will be in Champaign for the ITA Midwest Regional Sept. 24 through Sept. 26.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or [ajtumino@eiu.edu](mailto:ajtumino@eiu.edu).

## Men's basketball team releases 2021-22 schedule



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern forward Sammy Friday IV attempts a layup against Morehead State on Jan. 14 in Lantz Arena. Eastern lost that game 87-61.

By Adam Tumino  
Sports Editor | @adam\_tumino

The Eastern men's basketball team announced its 2021-22 schedule Monday afternoon, joining the women's team which released its schedule late last week.

The Panthers have a slate of 12 nonconference games to open the season, including two games against Power Five programs and another against a team from the basketball-heavy Big East.

Eastern's season opener on Nov. 9 is against a Power Five team in Northwestern. The Panthers will have another road game on Nov. 12 against Saint Louis before playing their home opener against Central Michigan Nov. 15.

Also on the schedule for the Panthers is an appearance in the Eastern Kentucky MTE Tournament where they will play Albany and former OVC opponent Eastern Kentucky.

The Panthers will host Evansville on Nov. 28. This will be the first time that new Eastern head coach Marty Simmons will face Evansville since he was the head coach there from 2007-2018.

Eastern played Evansville last season on the road, losing 68-65.

The final three nonconference games for Eastern will be road contests against Missouri, Butler and

Ball State.

Eastern was scheduled to play Butler last season, but COVID-19 issues for the Bulldogs forced the cancellation of the game.

Eastern will open up conference play on the road against reigning OVC champions Morehead State on Dec. 29. The Panthers' first home conference game will be Jan. 1, 2022, against Belmont.

The Panthers are coming off a season in which they went 9-18 overall and 6-14 in conference play, ending in the dismissal of head coach Jay Spoonhour.

COVID-19 and injury issues were present all season for Eastern, with only seven or eight players being available in some games.

Simmons was hired in March to take over the program after spending the last three seasons as an assistant coach at Clemson, helping lead the Tigers to a NCAA Tournament appearance.

Simmons has added eight players to the roster, joining six returners.

The top scorer among the returning players is forward Sammy Friday IV, who averaged 8.9 points and 4.6 rebounds per game last season while finishing second on the team with a field goal percentage of 60 percent.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or [ajtumino@eiu.edu](mailto:ajtumino@eiu.edu).